

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are now pending in the application. Of these claims, claims 1 and 2 have been amended, and claims 3 and 4 have been added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bekki et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,716,390). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to call for a wear-resistant aluminum alloy and wear-resistant aluminum extruded product, respectively, comprising less than 0.02 wt% of Zn. This subject matter is described in, for example, Figure 1 of the application. No new matter has been added. Bekki does not teach or suggest such an alloy or extruded product.

More particularly, Bekki merely teaches Zn in amount ranging from 0.2 to 1.5 wt%. This is much greater than the claimed range of less than 0.02 wt%. When an excessive amount of Zn is added to an aluminum alloy, a grain boundary segregation may occur. The alloy may also end up with defects such as cracks, or become susceptible to corrosion. The claimed range of less than 0.02 wt% prevents an aluminum alloy from having the above problems.

Applicants also respectfully assert that Bekki teaches away from a range of less than 0.02 wt%. This is because, at column 4, lines 50-55, Bekki teaches that:

“Zn has a function of improving the surface treatment property, such as the degreasing property and the chemical conversion property, without

increasing the deformation resistance. If Zn is less than 0.2 wt%, this effect is insufficient, whereas if it exceeds 2.5 wt%, the corrosion resistance is deteriorated. Therefore, Zn is allowed to be contained at 0.2 to 2.5 wt%.” (emphasis added)

Since Bekki teaches that Zn should not be less than 0.2 wt%, Bekki teaches directly away from the claimed range of less than 0.02 wt%. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that the claimed invention would not have been obvious.

NEW CLAIMS

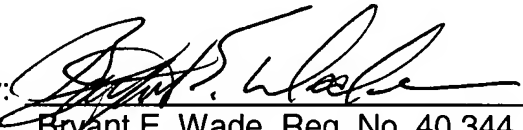
New claims 3 and 4 have been added. These claims are fully supported by the specification and drawings as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Specifically, these new claims are supported at, for example, paragraph [0047] of the specification. Favorable consideration of these new claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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